

**PROFESSIONAL HISTORY
OF
AURELIA SANDS BELLE, M.Ed.**



Aurelia Sands Belle has more than twenty years of professional experience in human service delivery and advocacy. She has extensive experience in the management of non-profit organizations and programmatic implementation strategies. Currently, Aurelia is the Executive Director of the **Durham Crisis Response Center** in Durham, North Carolina. This program responds to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. In addition, the program operates a community thrift store and has an all-embracing community education component. Most notably, Aurelia is the former director of the **Victim-Witness Assistance Program (VWAP)** for the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission in conjunction with the City of Atlanta. To her credit, Mrs. Belle initiated responsibility for developing all services to victims and witnesses of crime during the **1996 Centennial Olympic Games** in Atlanta, Georgia.

Aurelia was the first crime victim advocate appointed to serve on the **Governor's Criminal Justice Coordinating Council** in Georgia; the **Georgia Commission on Family Violence**. She was a founding member and **President of Georgians for Victim Justice (GVJ)**. She is currently services on the **North Carolina Governor's Crime Commission** and the **North Carolina Innocence Inquiry Commission**.

Aurelia is a founding Director of **Justice Solutions, Inc.** of Washington, DC. Justice Solutions is a non-profit agency committed to addressing issues related to criminal and social justice issues by working with professionals all across the country, providing technical assistance and intervention. She conducts workshops that address the needs, rights and concerns of victims of crime for the **Department of Justice Office for Victims of Crime and the National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA)**; serves as a faculty member for the National Victim Academy. She has a wealth of practical experience and knowledge concerning victims of crime and their involvement in the criminal justice system. She offers various workshops addressing their needs. She also presents workshops that promote team building, establishing community collaborations, working with non-profit boards and organizations, diversity training, as well as self-empowerment issues for women

Aurelia served as Interim Executive Director of the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault; prior to that time, she served as the Executive Director of the **Rape Crisis Volunteers of Cumberland County** in Fayetteville, North Carolina

A noted crisis intervention trainer, Aurelia has served on several national and local crisis response teams that responded to: a bus crash killing five coeds; the World Trade Center explosion; 1996 Centennial Olympics; an Ohio prison riot; Arkansas tornados; bank robberies; and death due to an industrial accident.

Ms. Belle is the recipient of many awards and honors including the **Margery Fry Award** by the National Organization for Victim Assistance; and the **Presidential Award for Outstanding Service and Commitment to Crime Victims**.

Aurelia's professional affiliations include End Violence Against Women, Int'l, Justice Solutions, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault and the National Constitutional Amendment Network; National Organization for Victim Assistance Crisis Response Team. She is also a faculty member for the Florida Crime Prevention Training Institute for the Office of the Attorney General.

Ms. Belle earned a **Master Degree in Community Counseling** from Georgia State University and a BA in Urban Studies from Oglethorpe University.